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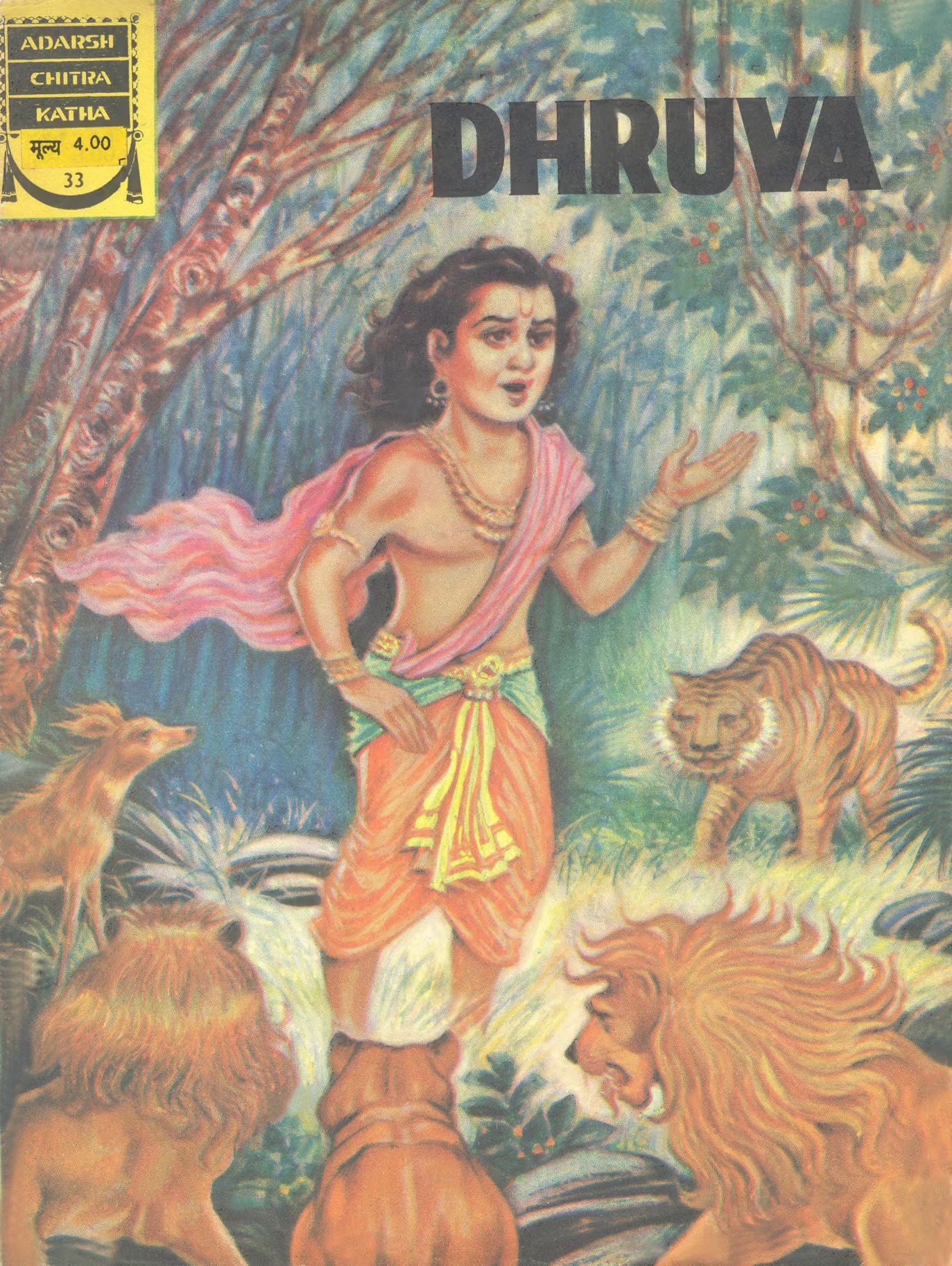
33

DHRUVA



The story of Dhruva is one of the most popular stories in the Bhagavata Purana.

Children are quick to respond to the emotional appeal of the young Dhruva willing to undergo suffering for the sake of truth. Dhruva's determination to achieve his goal makes him a perfect ideal though distinctly human.

Editor : **D. Kumar** Script ; **Bharati Sukhatankar**

Art work : **Madhu Powle**

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Our Next Title:

Sudarshan the Warrior

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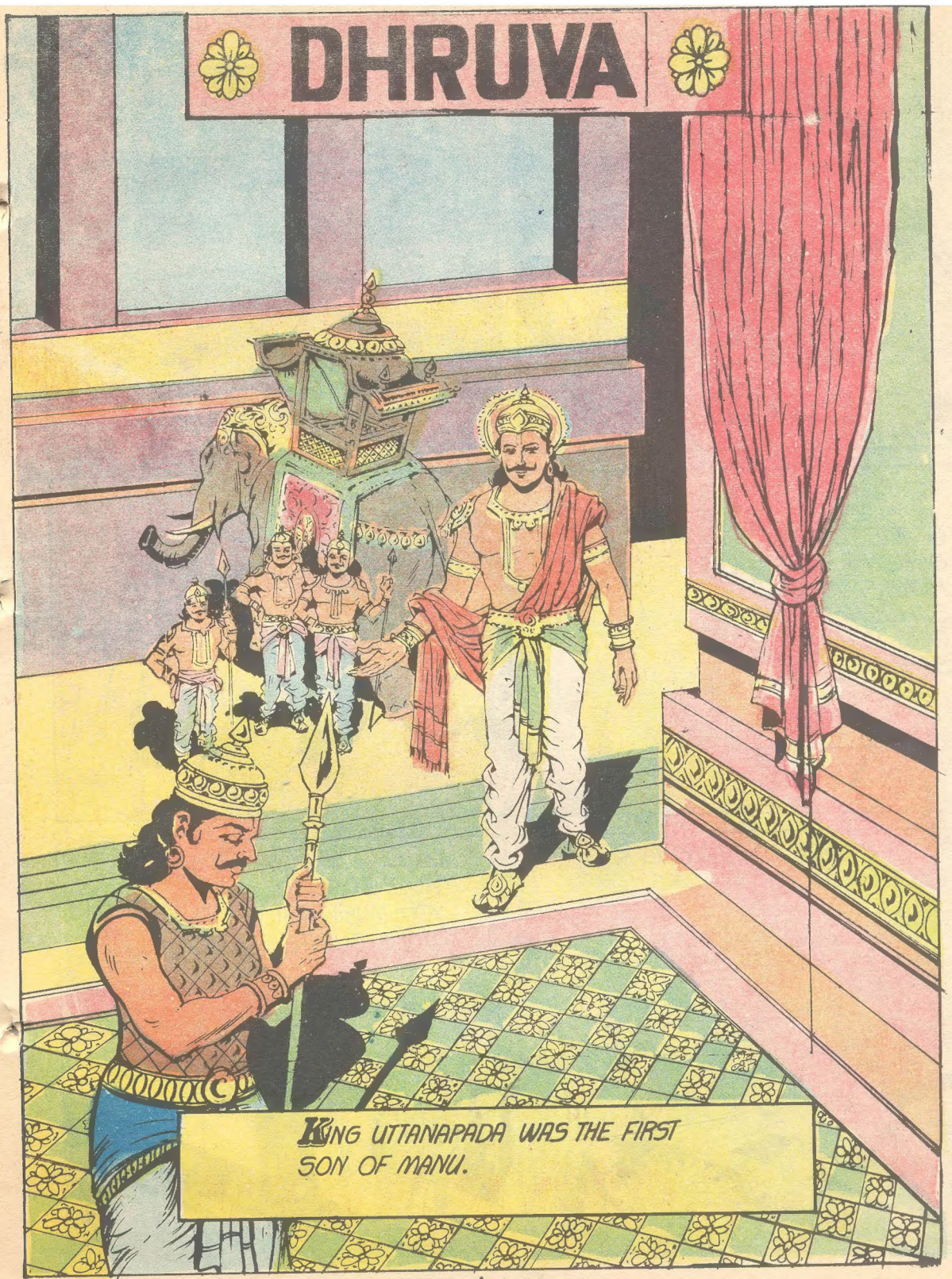
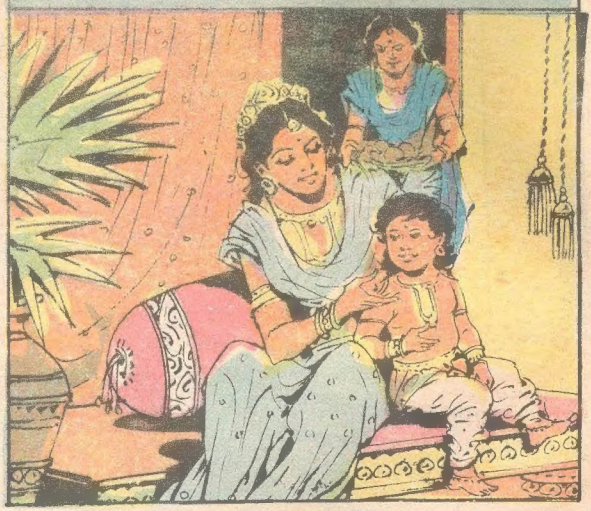

DHRUVA
KING UTTANAPADA WAS THE FIRST SON OF MANU.

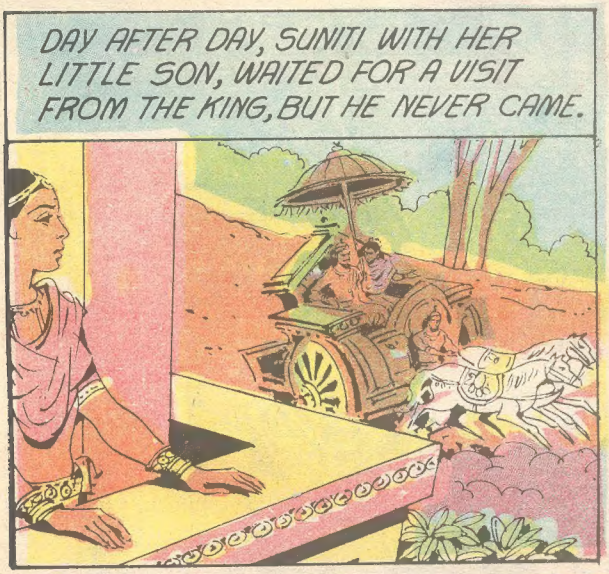
HE HAD TWO WIVES - SUNITI, WHO HAD A SON CALLED DHRUVA...


...AND SURUCHI, WHO HAD A SON CALLED UTTAMA.

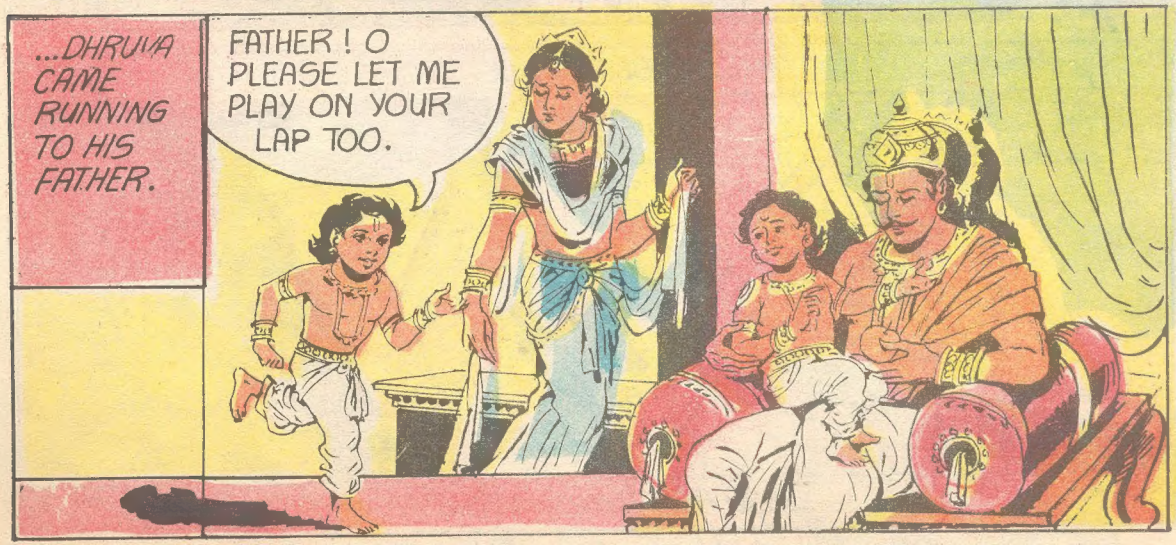
OF THE TWO QUEENS, THE KING FAVOURED SURUCHI AS SHE WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL.

BUT SHE WAS AS JEALOUS AND POSSESSIVE AS SHE WAS LOVELY.
MY LORD, IF YOU TRULY LOVE ME, YOU MUST NOT VISIT SUNITI.

YOU HOLD ME CAPTIVE, FAIR ONE. I WILL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY.

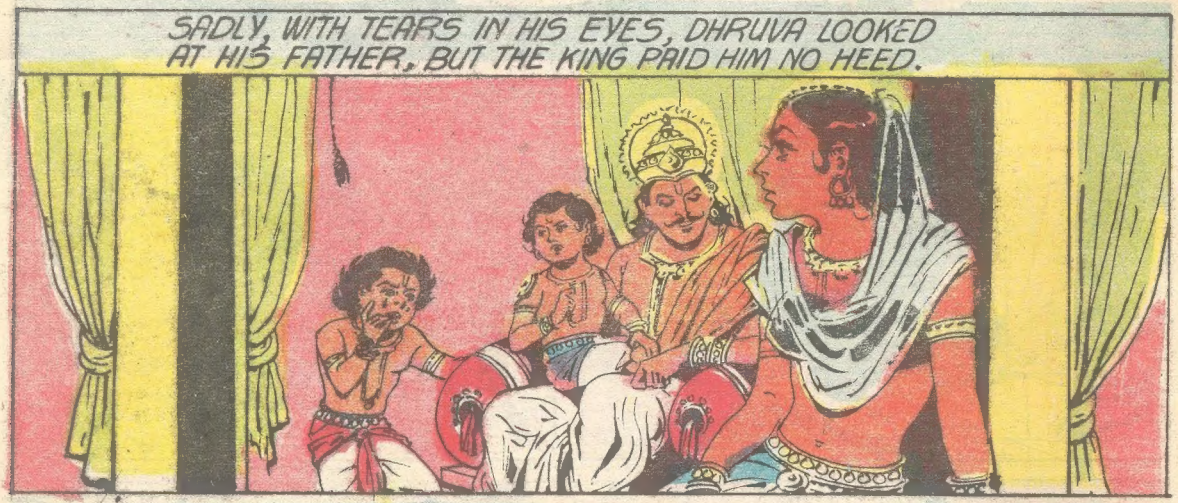

DAY AFTER DAY, SUNITI WITH HER LITTLE SON, WAITED FOR A VISIT FROM THE KING, BUT HE NEVER CAME.

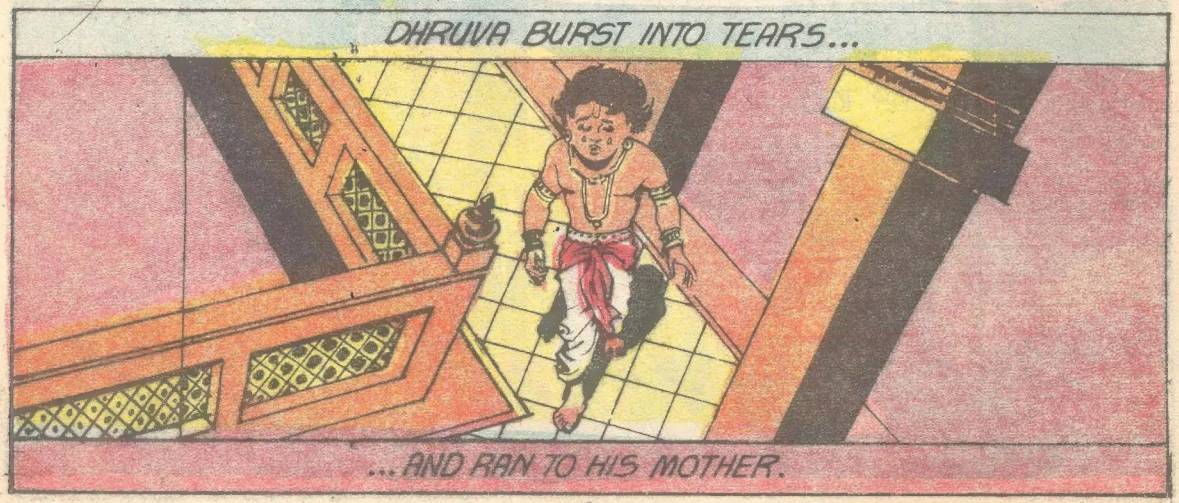
ONE DAY, SURUCHI WAS ENTERTAINING THE KING WHILE UTTAMA PLAYED ON HIS LAP WHEN...


...DHRUVA CAME RUNNING TO HIS FATHER.
FATHER! O PLEASE LET ME PLAY ON YOUR LAP TOO.

BUT THE KING TURNED HIS FACE AWAY.

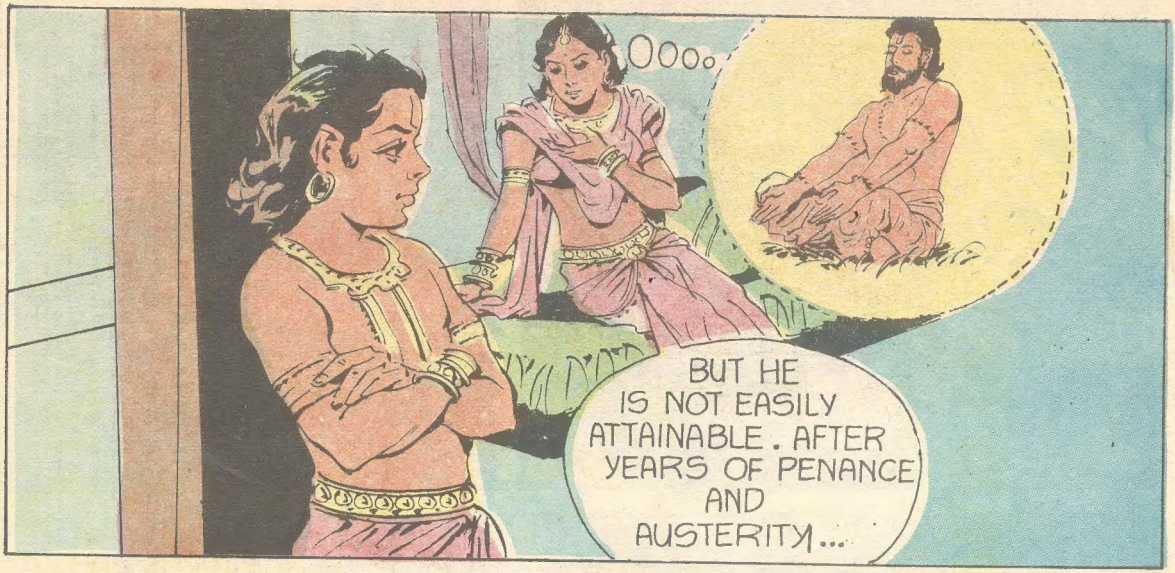
GO AWAY, YOU DREADFUL CHILD. TO GET YOUR FATHER'S LOVE, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE BORN AS MY CHILD. FOR THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO DO GREAT PENANCE.


SADLY, WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES, DHRUVA LOOKED AT HIS FATHER, BUT THE KING PAID HIM NO HEED.


DHRUVA BURST INTO TEARS...
...AND RAN TO HIS MOTHER.

SOBBING UNCONTROLLABLY, HE CLUNG TO HER LEGS.
MOTHER, O MOTHER! FATHER DOESN'T LOVE ME!
THE MOTHER'S HEART IN SUNITI BLED FOR HIM.
HUSH, HUSH MY CHILD. DON'T WEEP SO.
SHE SMOOTHED THE LOCKS FROM HIS FOREHEAD. SHE SOOTHED HIM AND KISSED HIS TEARS AWAY.
WHEN HIS LIPS HAD STOPPED QUIVERING AND HE WAS FAIRLY CALM—
DO NOT GRIEVE, MY SON. REMEMBER, THERE IS JUSTICE IN THE EYES OF GOD. EVERY-ONE PAYS THE PRICE OF HIS DEEDS, GOOD OR BAD.

SURUCHI'S WORDS MAY BE HARSH BUT SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH. THROUGH PENANCE, PRAYER AND THE GRACE OF NARAYANA, MAN CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING.
DHRUVA, HIS EYES STILL BRIGHT WITH TEARS, LOOKED UP AT HIS MOTHER.
WHO IS THIS NARAYANA, MOTHER? WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?
MY SON, HE IS THE SUPREME BEING WHO REMOVES THE SORROWS OF HIS DEVOTEES AND FULFILS THE DESIRES OF THOSE WHO PRAY TO HIM SINCERELY.

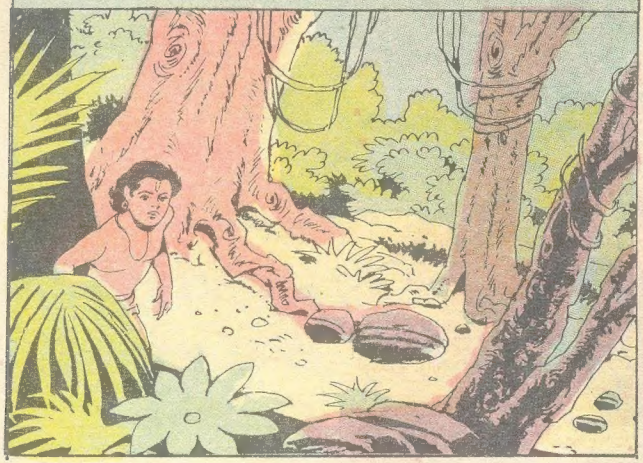

Oooo
BUT HE IS NOT EASILY ATTAINABLE. AFTER YEARS OF PENANCE AND AUSTERITY...

"YOGIS HAVE SEEN HIM SEATED DEEP WITHIN THEIR OWN HEARTS."

DHRUVA WAS MOVED BY HIS MOTHER'S WORDS AND HE THOUGHT OVER THEM DEEPLY.

THAT NIGHT WHILE EVERYONE SLEPT...

...HE STOLE OUT OF THE PALACE QUIETLY...


... AND WENT INTO A DEEP, DARK FOREST.

CRYING OUT PASSIONATELY...
NARAYANA! NARAYANA!!

O VASUDEVA, WHERE ARE YOU?

... HE ASKED THE BEARS AND THE JACKALS.
HAVE YOU SEEN NARAYANA ANYWHERE?

HE ASKED THE LIONS AND THE TIGERS.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE NARAYANA IS?

IT IS SAID IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT WHEN ONE SINCERELY SEEKS, THE LORD SENDS FOR HIS GUIDANCE A TEACHER WHO HAS UNCOVERED HIS OWN INNER LIGHT.

NARADA, THE DIVINE SAGE, WAS SITTING BLISSFULLY MEDITATING UPON NARAYANA, WHEN...

NARAYANA! NARAYANA!!

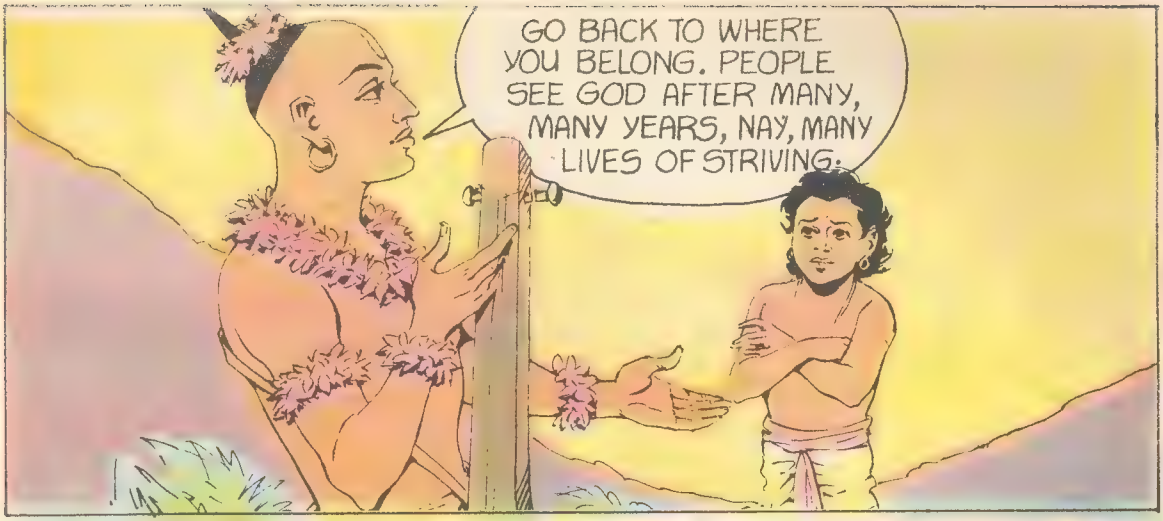
... HE HEARD THE ANGUISHED CRIES OF DHRUVA.

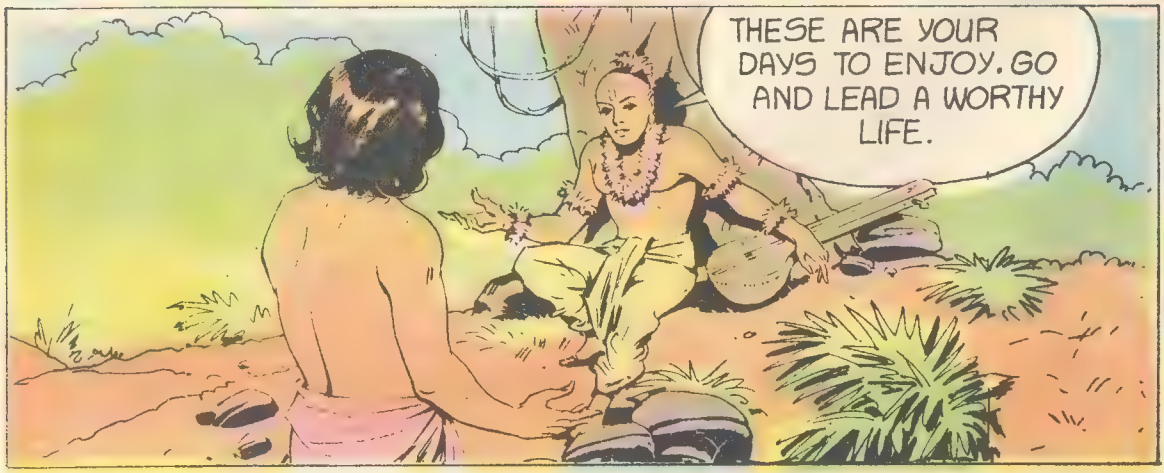
WHERE ARE YOU, NARAYANA?

HE ROSE FROM HIS SEAT OF MEDITATION, THEREFORE, AND SET OUT TO SEEK THE VOICE.

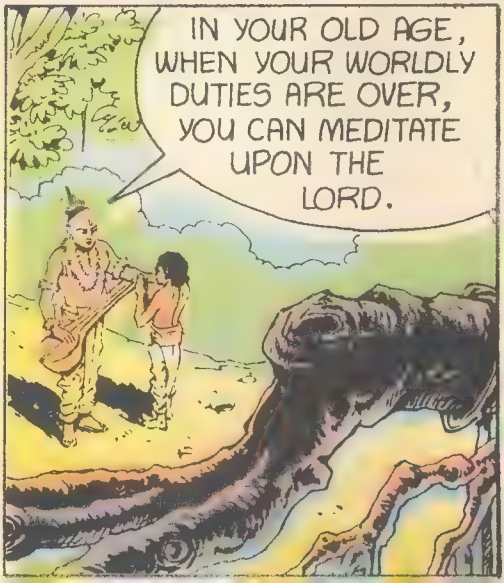
HE CAME UPON DHRUVA IN THE FOREST AND LOVINGLY PLACED HIS HAND UPON HIS HEAD.

SON, YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO START ON YOUR SEARCH FOR GOD.


GO BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG. PEOPLE SEE GOD AFTER MANY, MANY YEARS, NAY, MANY LIVES OF STRIVING.


THESE ARE YOUR DAYS TO ENJOY. GO AND LEAD A WORTHY LIFE.

NARADA WAS TESTING DHRUVA'S SINCERITY, SO HE CONTINUED—
KEEP THE COMPANY OF THE GOOD AND THE VIRTUOUS. BE KIND AND GENEROUS TO ALL.


IN YOUR OLD AGE, WHEN YOUR WORLDLY DUTIES ARE OVER, YOU CAN MEDITATE UPON THE LORD.

DHRUVA REPLIED RESPECTFULLY—

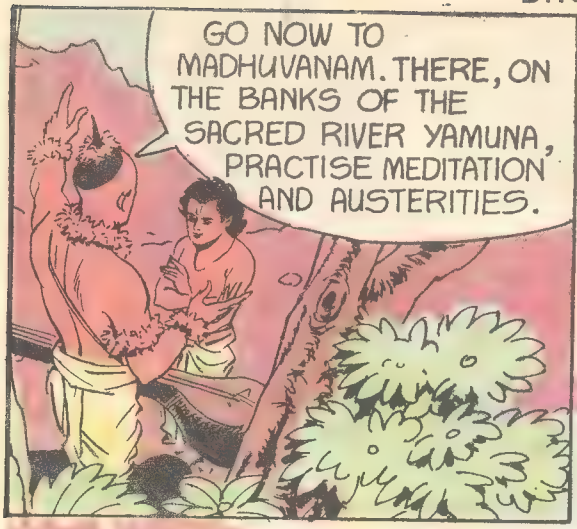
HOLY SIR. MY HEART HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY SURUCHI. I WISH TO SECURE SUCH AN EXALTED POSITION IN THE UNIVERSE, THAT NONE CAN DRIVE ME AWAY FROM IT.

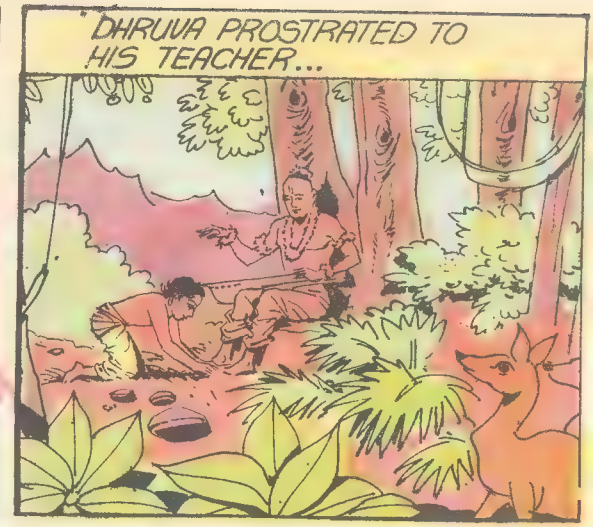
MY MOTHER HAS TOLD ME THAT NARAYANA GRANTS ALL SINCERE WISHES. IT IS, THEREFORE, MY BURNING DESIRE TO FIND HIM.

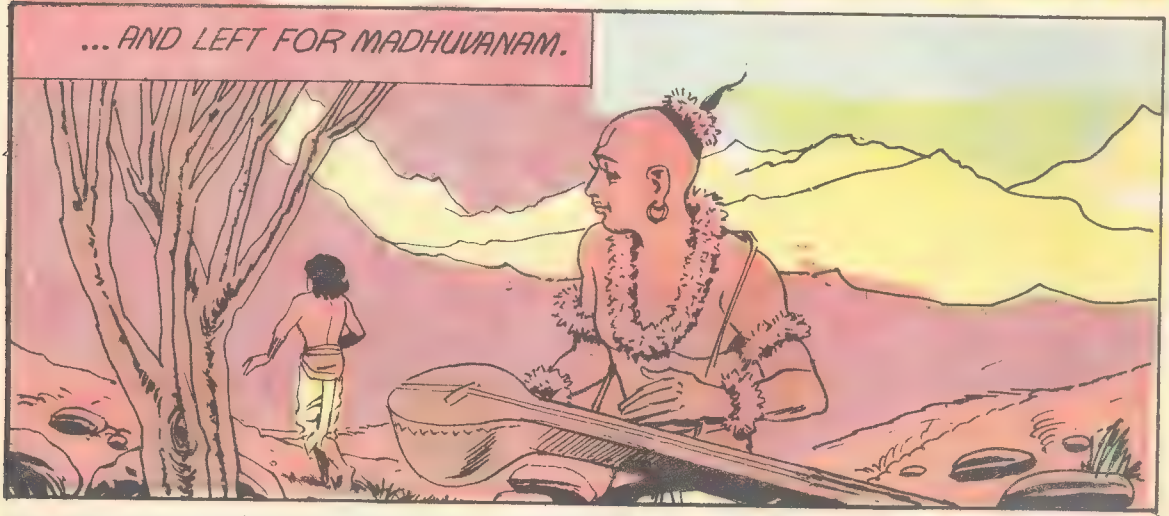
I KNOW THIS TO BE THE HIGHEST GOAL IN LIFE. PRAY, BE MY GUIDE AND SHOW ME THE PATH.

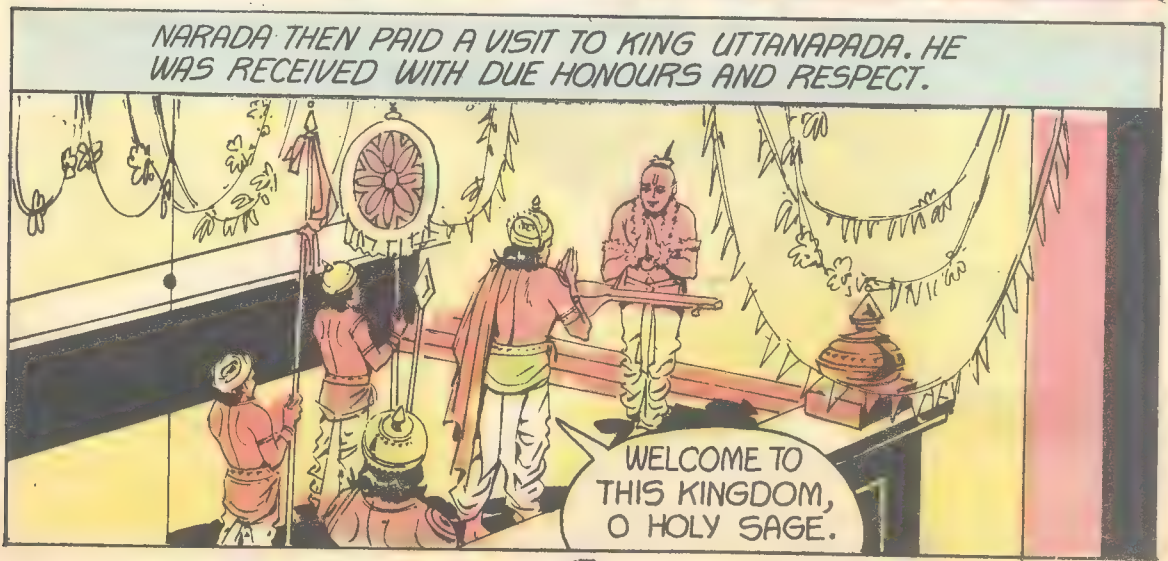
YOU ROAM THE WORLD FOR ITS WELFARE AND WITH COMPASSION FOR ITS BEINGS. PLEASE HAVE COMPASSION ON ME AND HELP ME.

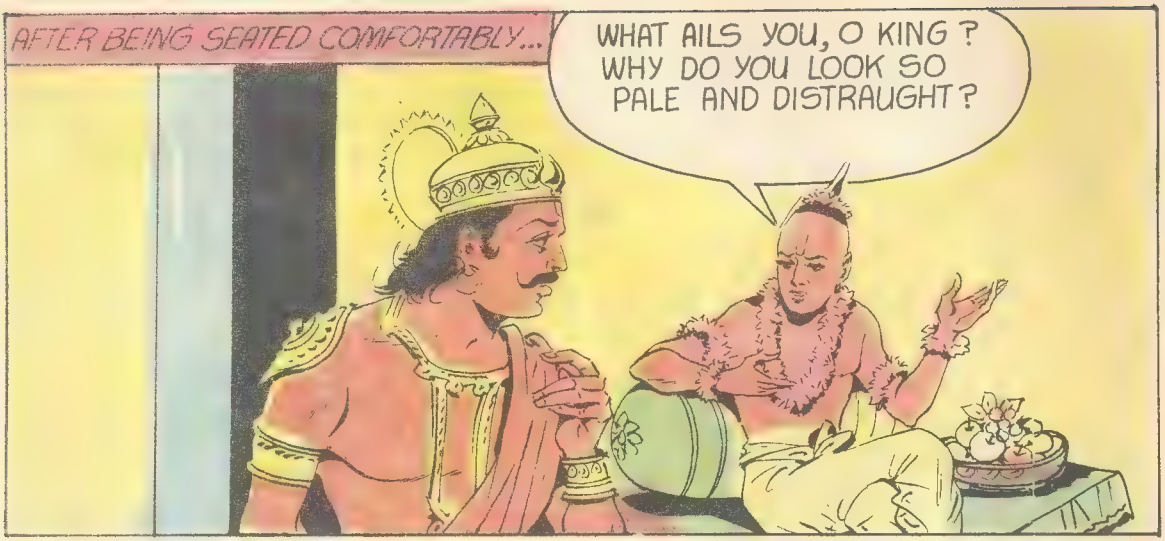
NARADA WAS MOVED BY DHRUVA'S SINCERITY. HE TAUGHT HIM A MANTRA-
OM NAMO BHAGAVATE VAASUDEVAYA! REPEAT THIS MANTRA, MY CHILD.
OM NAMO BHAGAVATE VAASUDEVAYA!
DHRUVA REPEATED THE MANTRA.
NARADA CONTINUED HIS INSTRUCTION-
MAKE YOUR HEART PURE. FEEL HIS LOVING PRESENCE WITHIN IT AT ALL TIMES.
CONSTANTLY MEDITATE ON HIM. SEE HIM EVERYWHERE, AT ALL PLACES, IN ALL BEINGS.
DEVOTE YOURSELF ENTIRELY TO HIM AND EVEN IN THIS LIFE YOU SHALL REALISE HIM.

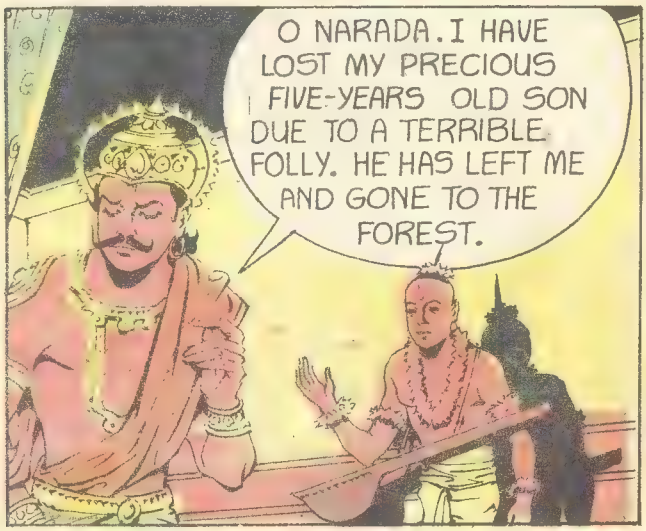

GO NOW TO MADHUVANAM. THERE, ON THE BANKS OF THE SACRED RIVER YAMUNA, PRACTISE MEDITATION AND AUSTERITIES.

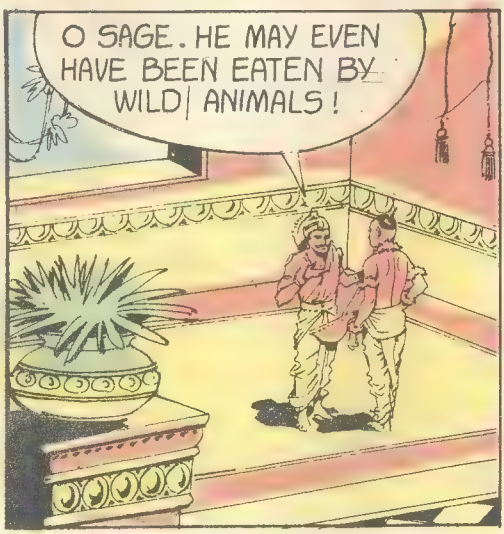

DHRUVA PROSTRATED TO HIS TEACHER...


...AND LEFT FOR MADHUVANAM.


NARADA THEN PAID A VISIT TO KING UTTANAPADA. HE WAS RECEIVED WITH DUE HONOURS AND RESPECT.
WELCOME TO THIS KINGDOM, O HOLY SAGE.


AFTER BEING SEATED COMFORTABLY...
WHAT AILS YOU, O KING? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PALE AND DISTRAUGHT?

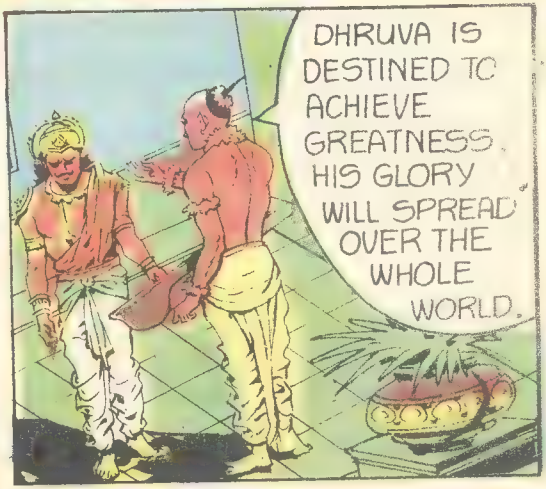

O NARADA. I HAVE LOST MY PRECIOUS FIVE-YEARS OLD SON DUE TO A TERRIBLE FOLLY. HE HAS LEFT ME AND GONE TO THE FOREST.

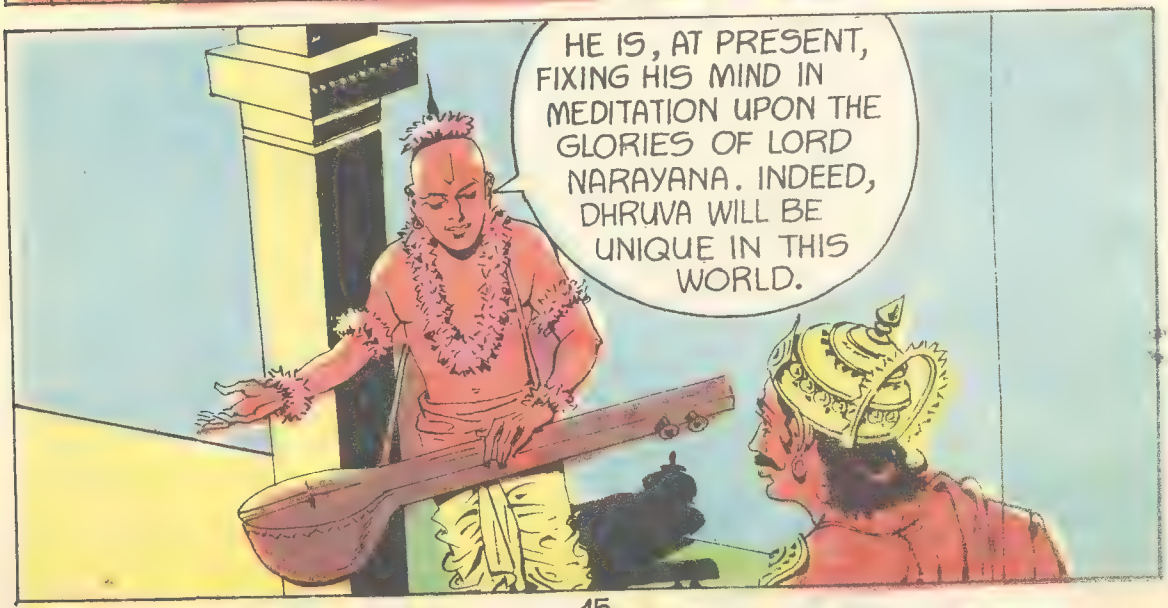

O SAGE. HE MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN EATEN BY WILD ANIMALS!

...NARADA SMILED AT THE KING'S ANXIETY.
DO NOT WORRY, MIGHTY KING.

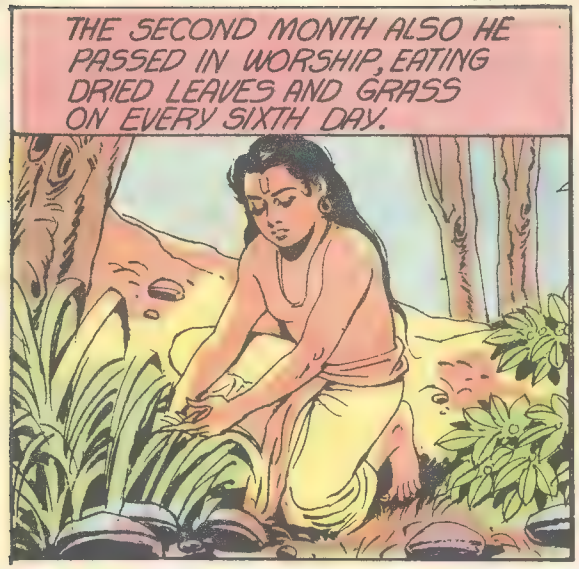
INDEED I AM THE WORST KIND OF FATHER, TO HAVE BEEN SWAYED BY THE WORDS OF A WOMAN.

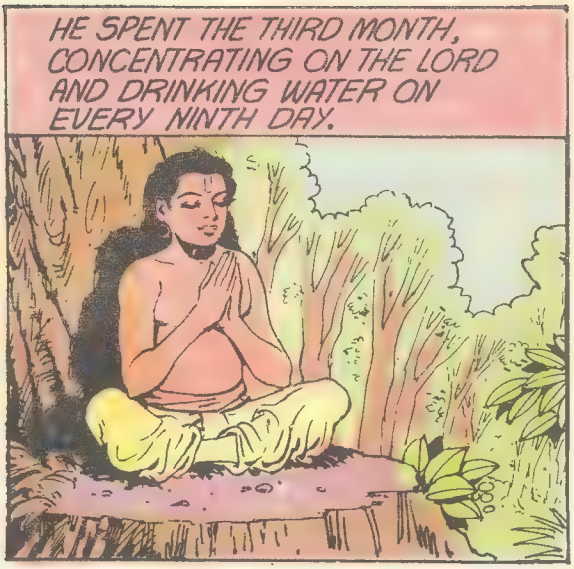
MY POOR CHILD MUST BE UNDERGOING UNTOLD HARD-SHIPS IN THE FOREST.

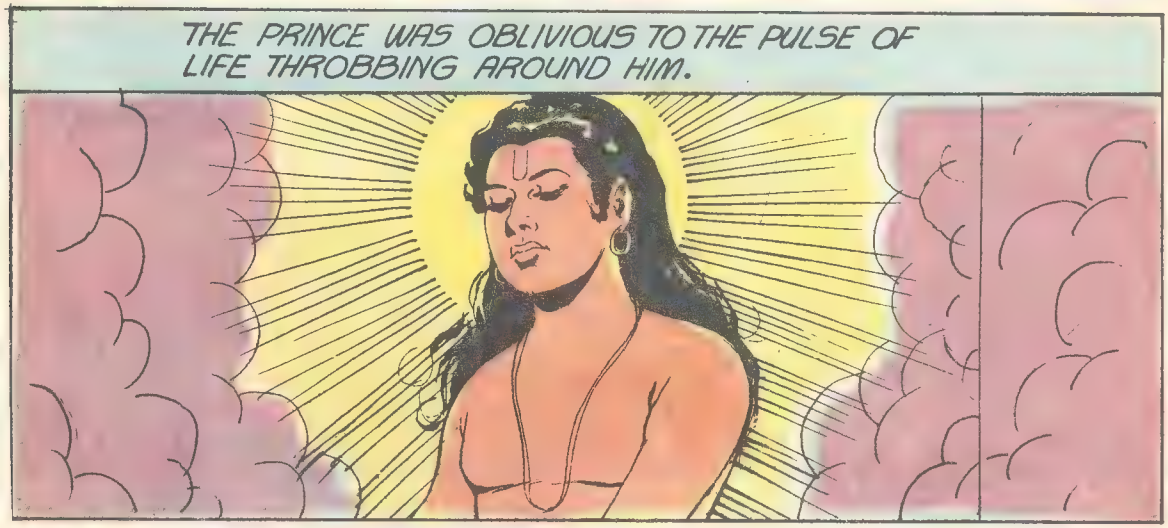

DHRUVA IS DESTINED TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS. HIS GLORY WILL SPREAD OVER THE WHOLE WORLD.

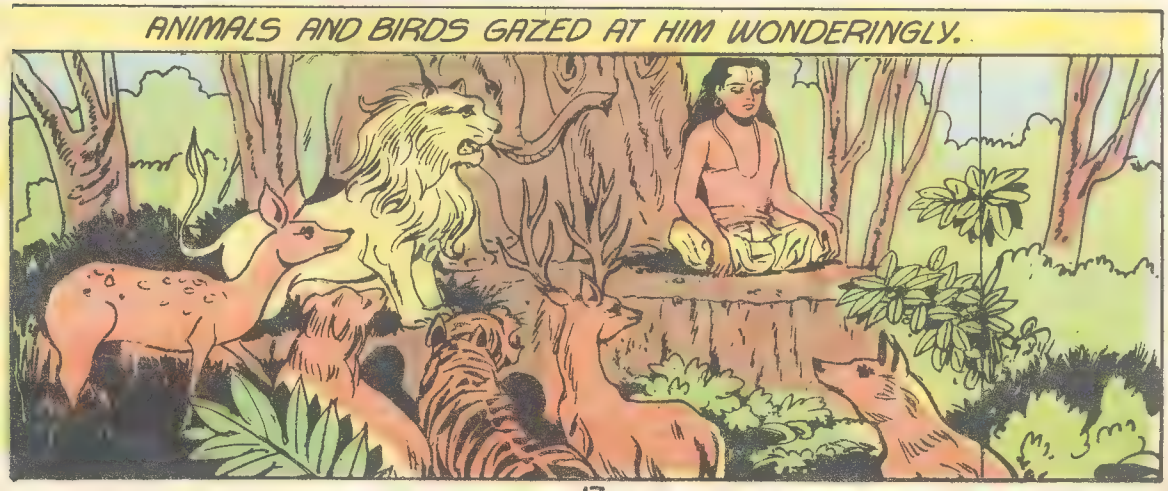

HE IS, AT PRESENT, FIXING HIS MIND IN MEDITATION UPON THE GLORIES OF LORD NARAYANA. INDEED, DHRUVA WILL BE UNIQUE IN THIS WORLD.

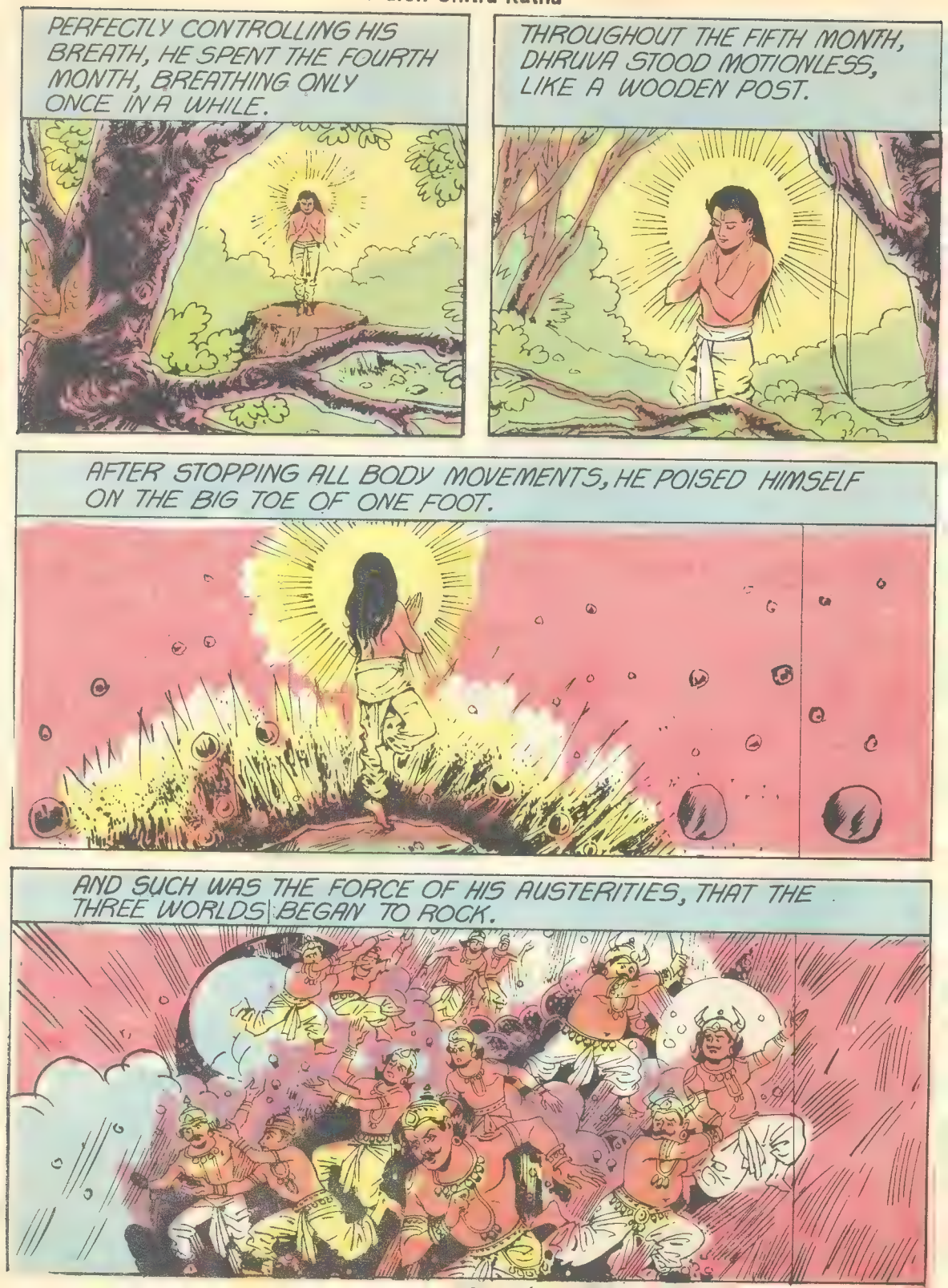
WITH THIS PREDICTION, NARADA WENT ON HIS WAY.
NARAYANA! NARAYANA!!
IN MADHUVANAM, DHRUVA BATHED IN THE YAMUNA...
...AND STARTED HIS PENANCE ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY NARADA.
HE PASSED ONE MONTH IN WORSHIP, SUSTAINING HIMSELF BY EATING ONLY THE FRUITS OF THE WOOD-APPLE AND BADARA (JUJUB).

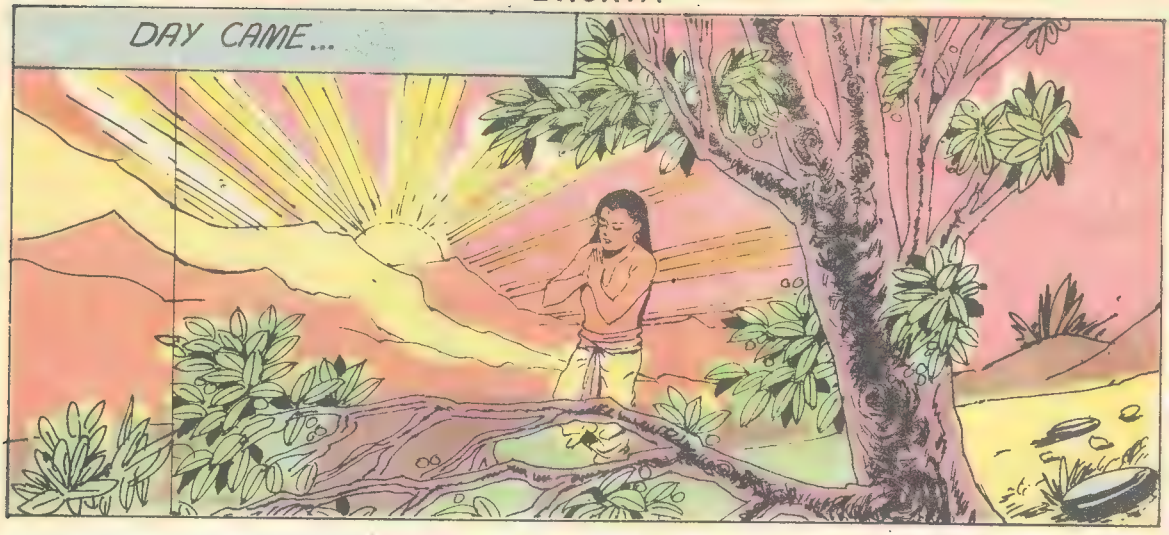

THE SECOND MONTH ALSO HE PASSED IN WORSHIP, EATING DRIED LEAVES AND GRASS ON EVERY SIXTH DAY.

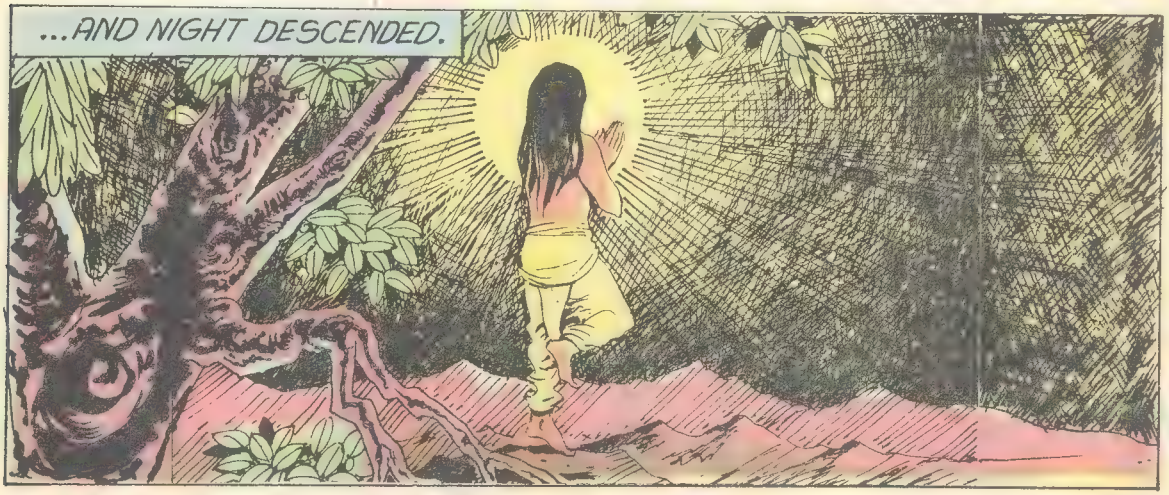

HE SPENT THE THIRD MONTH, CONCENTRATING ON THE LORD AND DRINKING WATER ON EVERY NINTH DAY.

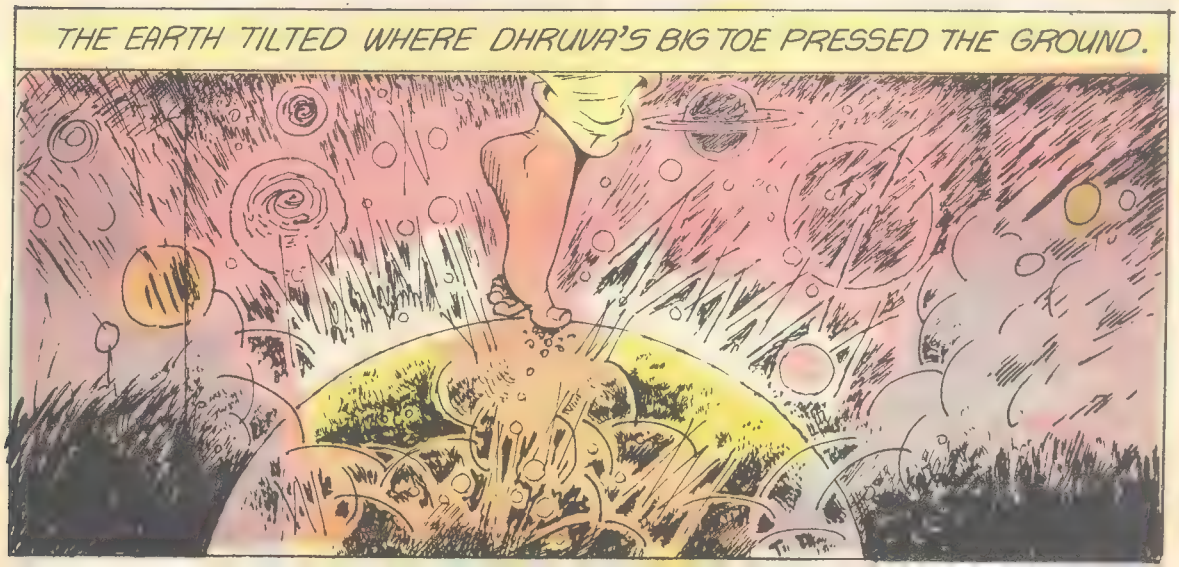

THE PRINCE WAS OBLIVIOUS TO THE PULSE OF LIFE THROBBING AROUND HIM.

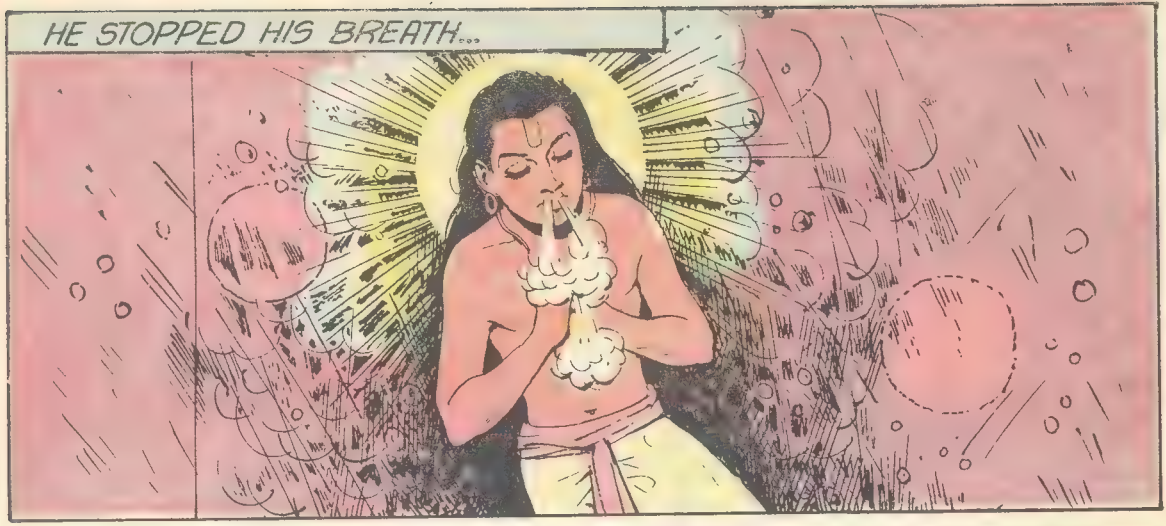

ANIMALS AND BIRDS GAZED AT HIM WONDERINGLY.


PERFECTLY CONTROLLING HIS BREATH, HE SPENT THE FOURTH MONTH, BREATHING ONLY ONCE IN A WHILE.
THROUGHOUT THE FIFTH MONTH, DHRUVA STOOD MOTIONLESS, LIKE A WOODEN POST.
AFTER STOPPING ALL BODY MOVEMENTS, HE POISED HIMSELF ON THE BIG TOE OF ONE FOOT.
AND SUCH WAS THE FORCE OF HIS AUSTERITIES, THAT THE THREE WORLDS BEGAN TO ROCK.


DAY CAME...


...AND NIGHT DESCENDED.

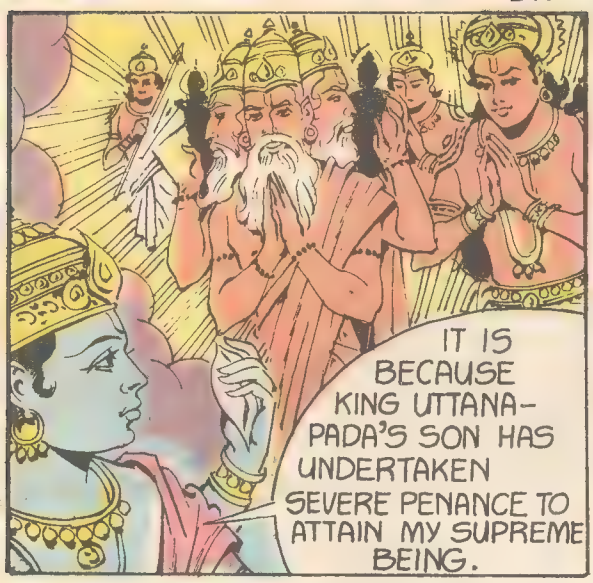

THE EARTH TILTED WHERE DHRUVA'S BIG TOE PRESSED THE GROUND.


HE STOPPED HIS BREATH...

...AND THE BREATH OF THE THREE WORLDS STOPPED, SUFFOCATING ALL CREATURES AND BEINGS!

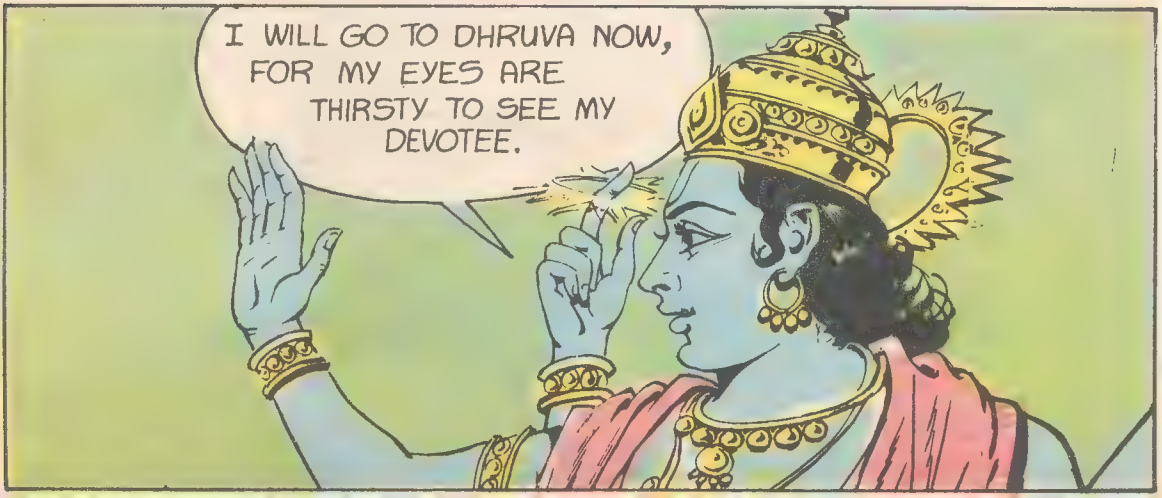
IN VAIKUNTHA, THE DEVAS TOOK A PETITION TO VISHNU.

LORD! WE TAKE REFUGE IN YOU! WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE BREATH OF ALL LIVING CREATURES HAS SUDDENLY STOPPED.

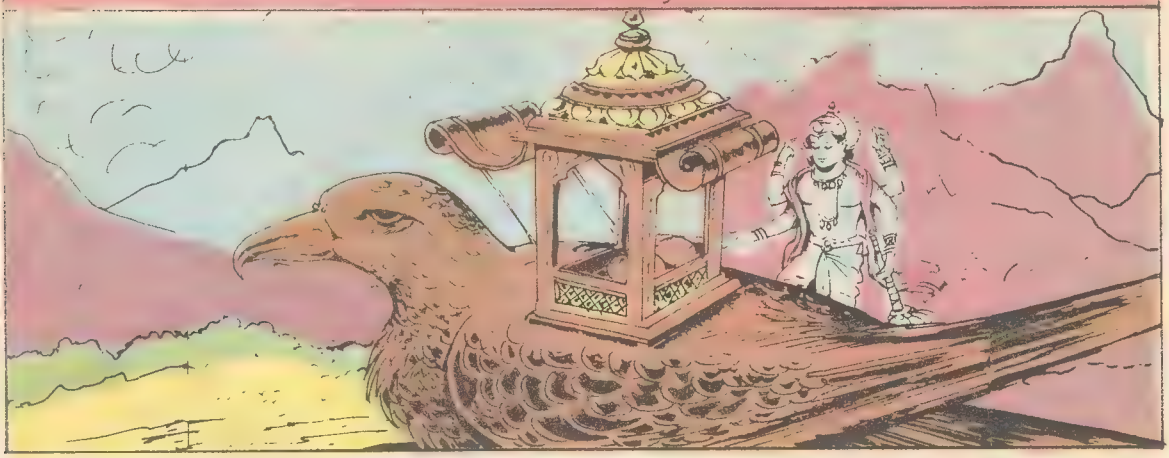

IT IS BECAUSE KING UTTANA-PADA'S SON HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVERE PENANCE TO ATTAIN MY SUPREME BEING.

HOWEVER, HAVE NO FEAR. I WILL DISSUADE THE CHILD FROM HIS AUSTERITIES, AND SAVE THE WORLD.

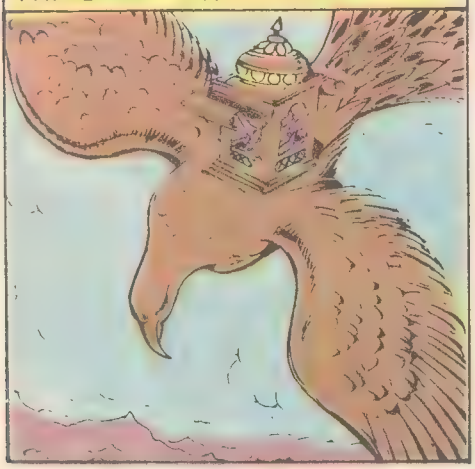
IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE QUICKLY, THE WORLD AND ALL LIFE ON IT WILL PERISH.


I WILL GO TO DHRUVA NOW, FOR MY EYES ARE THIRSTY TO SEE MY DEVOTEE.

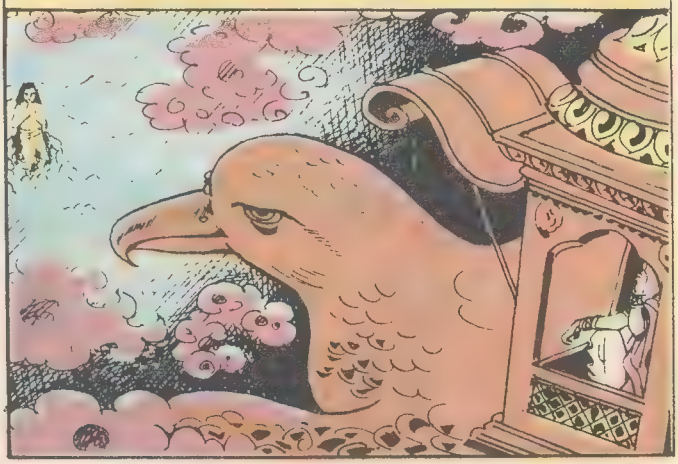
VISHNU MOUNTED HIS VEHICLE, GARUDA...



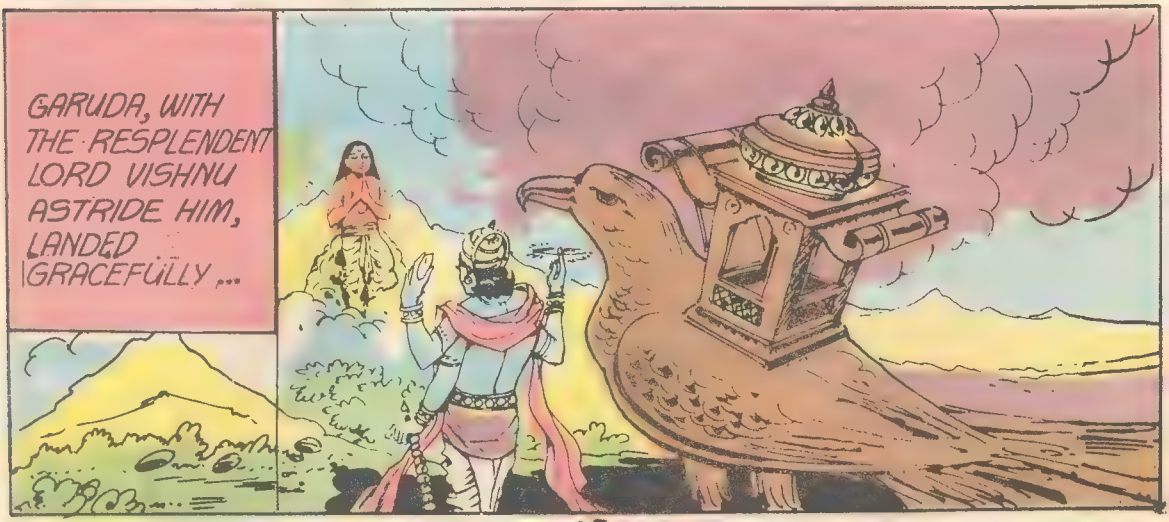
...AND WINGED HIS WAY THROUGH THE SKIES...



...TO MADHUVANAM, WHERE DRUVA STOOD LOST IN MEDITATION.

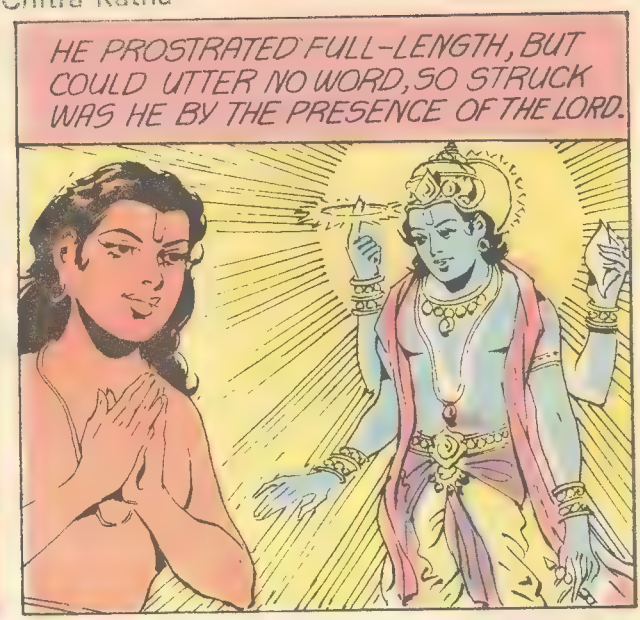


GARUDA, WITH THE RESPLENDENT LORD VISHNU ASTRIDE HIM, LANDED GRACEFULLY...

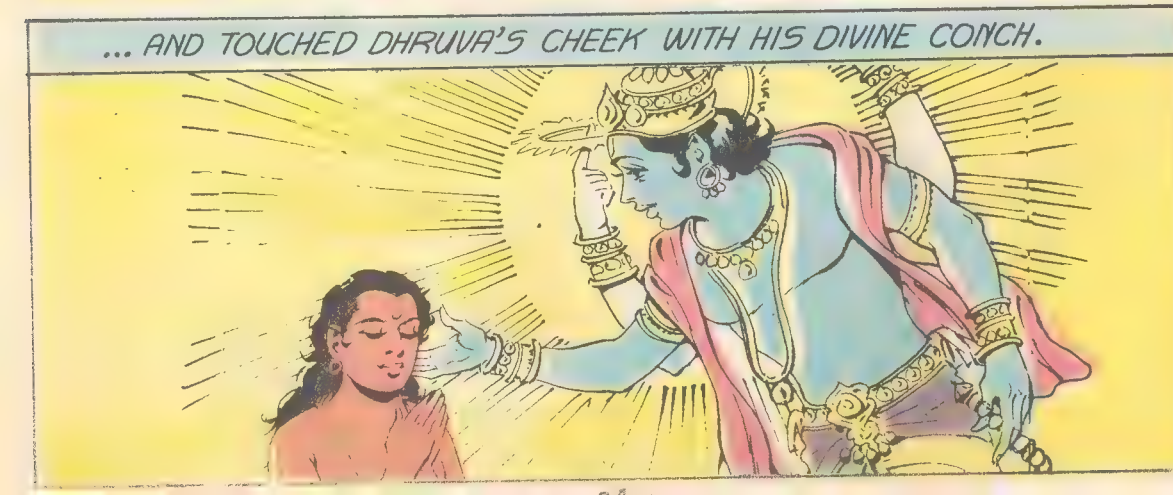


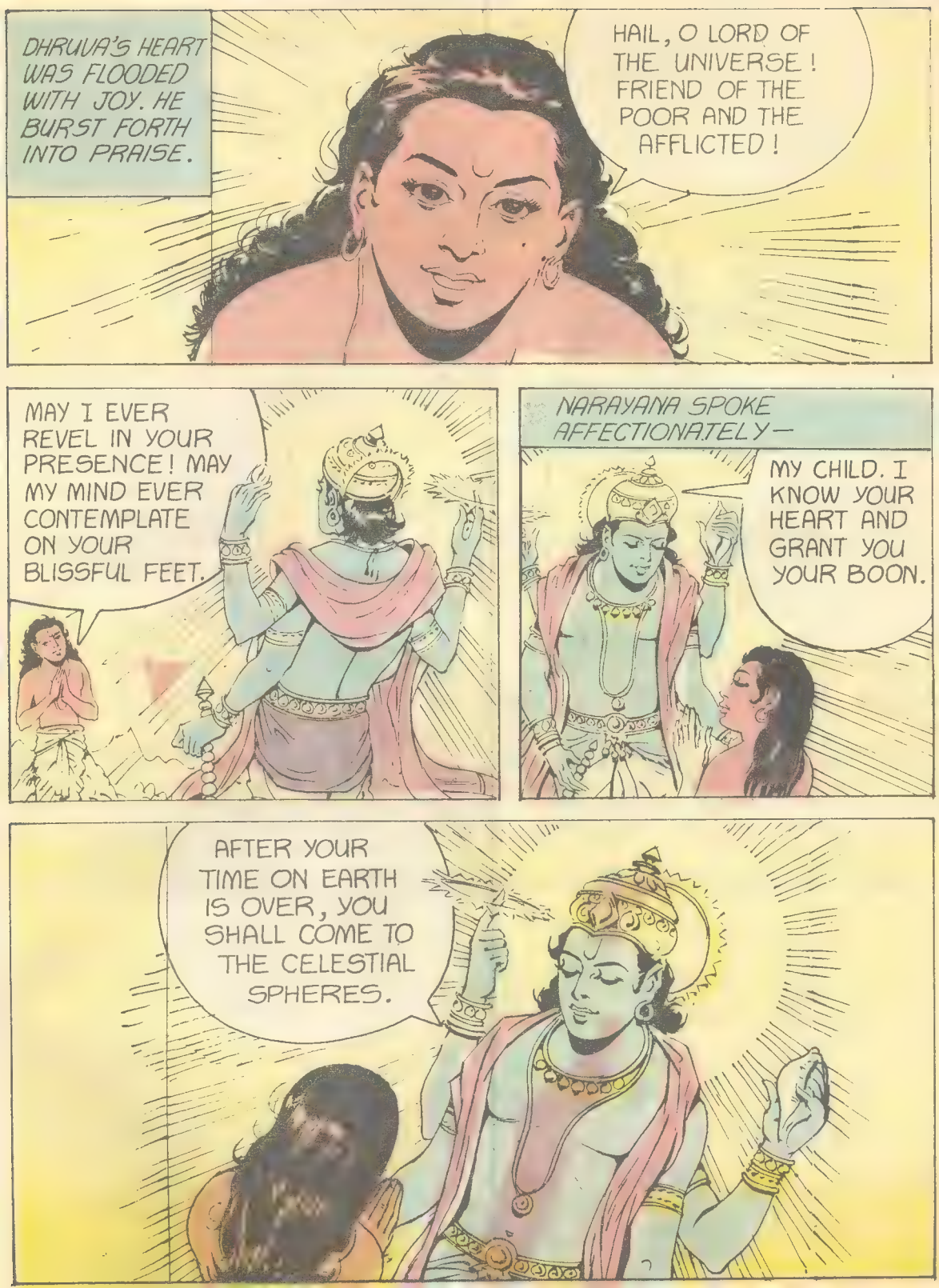
... BEFORE DHRUVA.
SLOWLY, DHRUVA OPENED HIS EYES...
...AND BEHELD THE MAGNIFICENT FORM OF THE LORD.

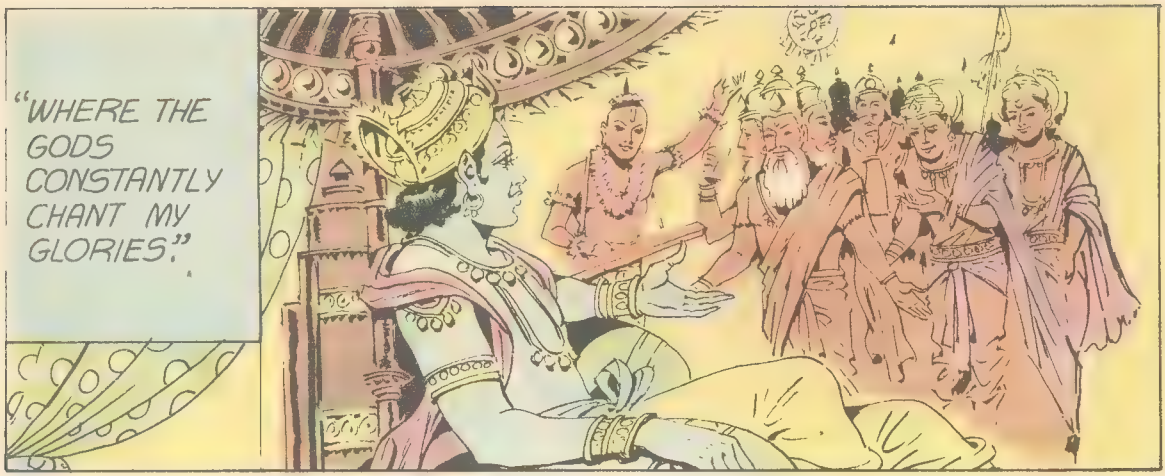
DHRUVA'S EYES SHONE WITH HAPPINESS AND PLEASURE.


HE PROSTRATED FULL-LENGTH, BUT COULD UTTER NO WORD, SO STRUCK WAS HE BY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

LORD VISHNU SMILED...


... AND TOUCHED DHRUVA'S CHEEK WITH HIS DIVINE CONCH.


DHRUVA'S HEART WAS FLOODED WITH JOY. HE BURST FORTH INTO PRAISE.
HAIL, O LORD OF THE UNIVERSE! FRIEND OF THE POOR AND THE AFFLICTED!
MAY I EVER REVEL IN YOUR PRESENCE! MAY MY MIND EVER CONTEMPLATE ON YOUR BLISSFUL FEET.
NARAYANA SPOKE AFFECTIONATELY—
MY CHILD. I KNOW YOUR HEART AND GRANT YOU YOUR BOON.
AFTER YOUR TIME ON EARTH IS OVER, YOU SHALL COME TO THE CELESTIAL SPHERES.


"WHERE THE GODS CONSTANTLY CHANT MY GLORIES."

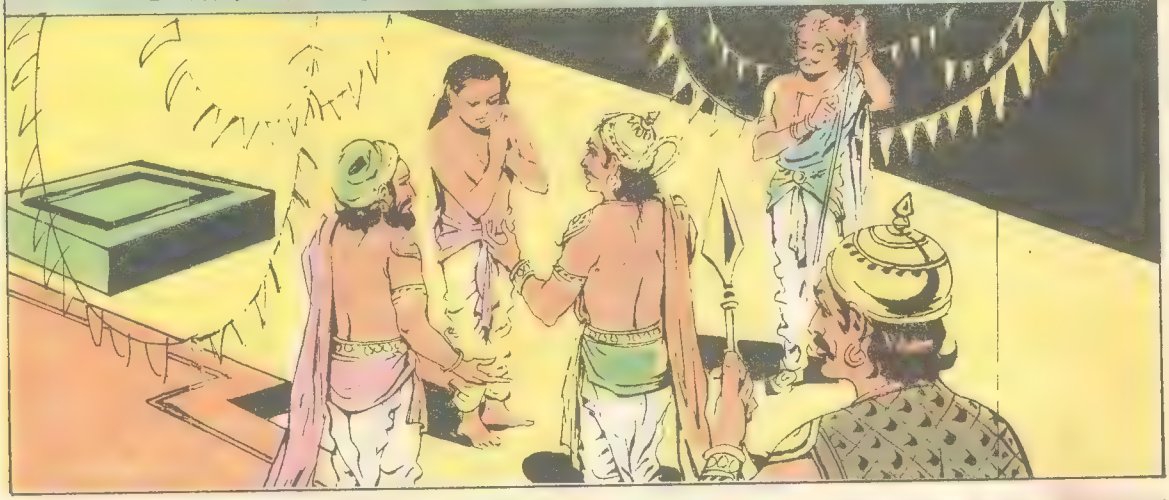
HERE, YOU SHALL HAVE A PERMANENT UNCHANGING PLACE AND YOU WILL COME TO BE KNOWN AS DHRUVA NAKSHATRA.

IN LATER YEARS, MEN WILL DRAW THEIR GUIDANCE FROM YOU. NOW GO BACK TO YOUR FATHER.

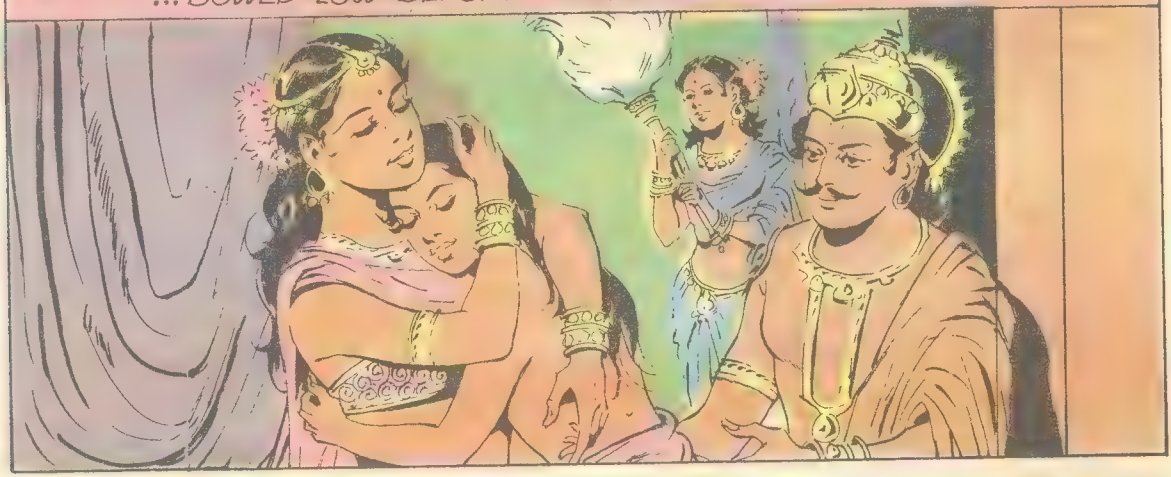
LEARN TO BE A GOOD KING AND RULE THE KINGDOM AFTER HE RETIRES TO THE FOREST.

AFTER BLESSING DHRUVA, LORD VISHNU MOUNTED GARUDA AND RETURNED TO VAIKUNTHA.
OBEYING THE COMMAND OF LORD NARAYANA, HIS MIND SINGING HIS PRAISES, DHRUVA SET OFF ON HIS JOURNEY HOMEWARD.
NEWS OF HIS ARRIVAL TRAVELLED FAST.
HIS FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER, EVEN HIS STEP-MOTHER, CAME IN SPLENDID CHARIOTS TO RECEIVE HIM.

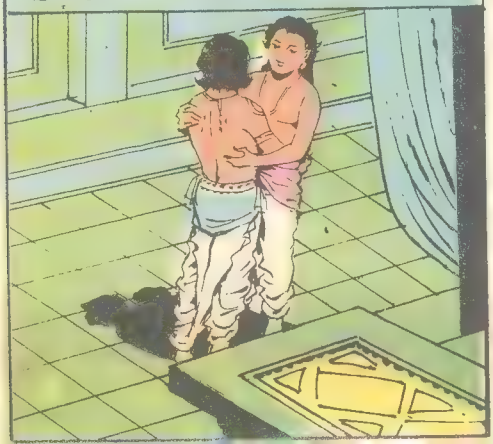
DHRUVA PROSTRATED TO HIS FATHER...



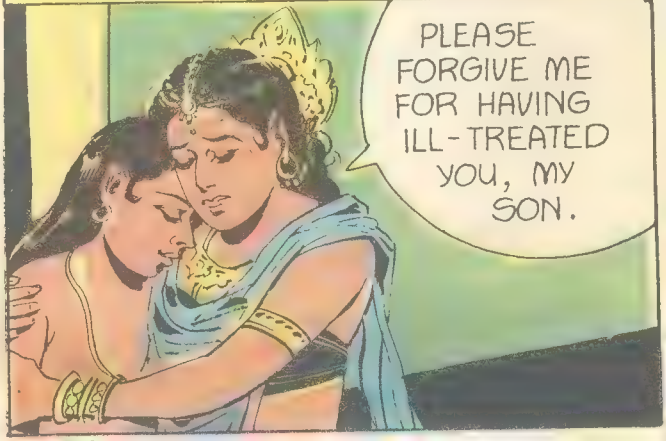
...BOWED LOW BEFORE HIS MOTHERS...



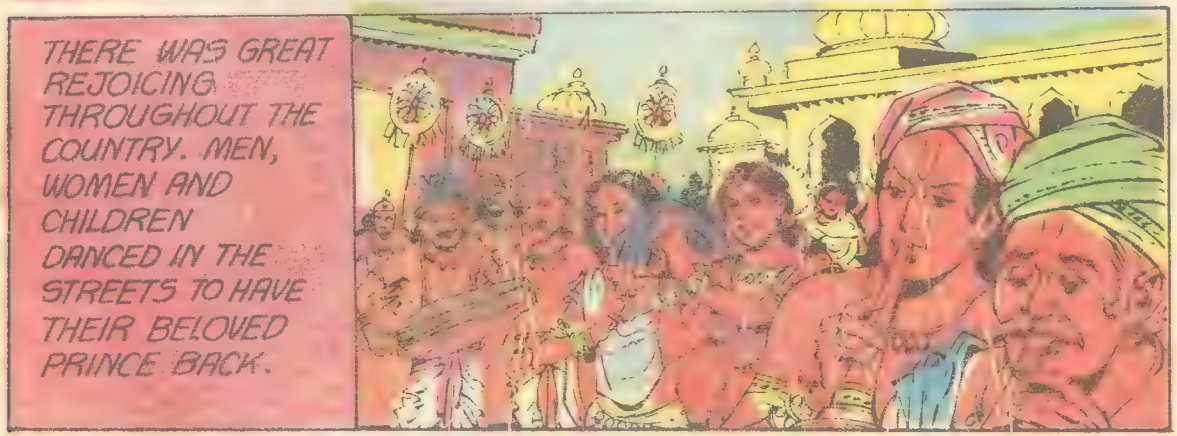
...AND EMBRACED HIS BROTHER AFFECTIONATELY.

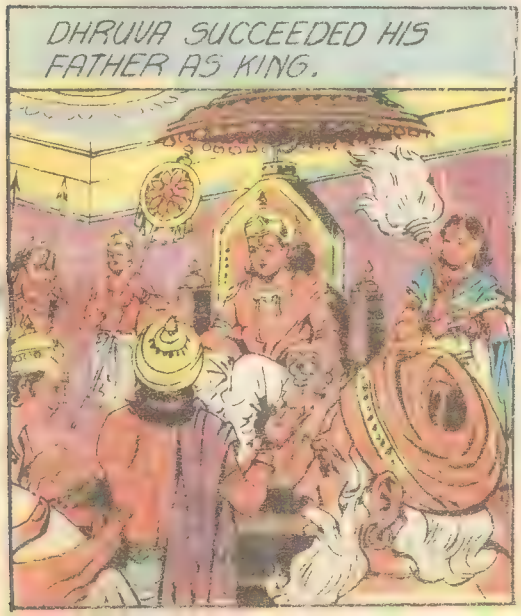


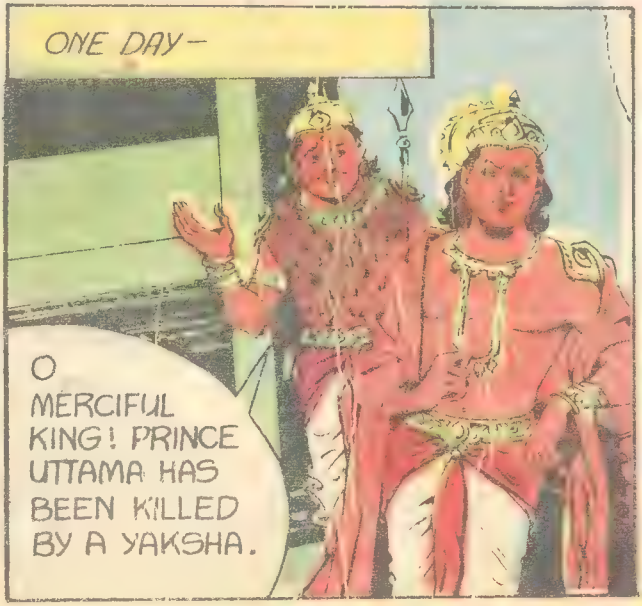
SURUCHI BEGGED DHRUVA'S FORGIVENESS.

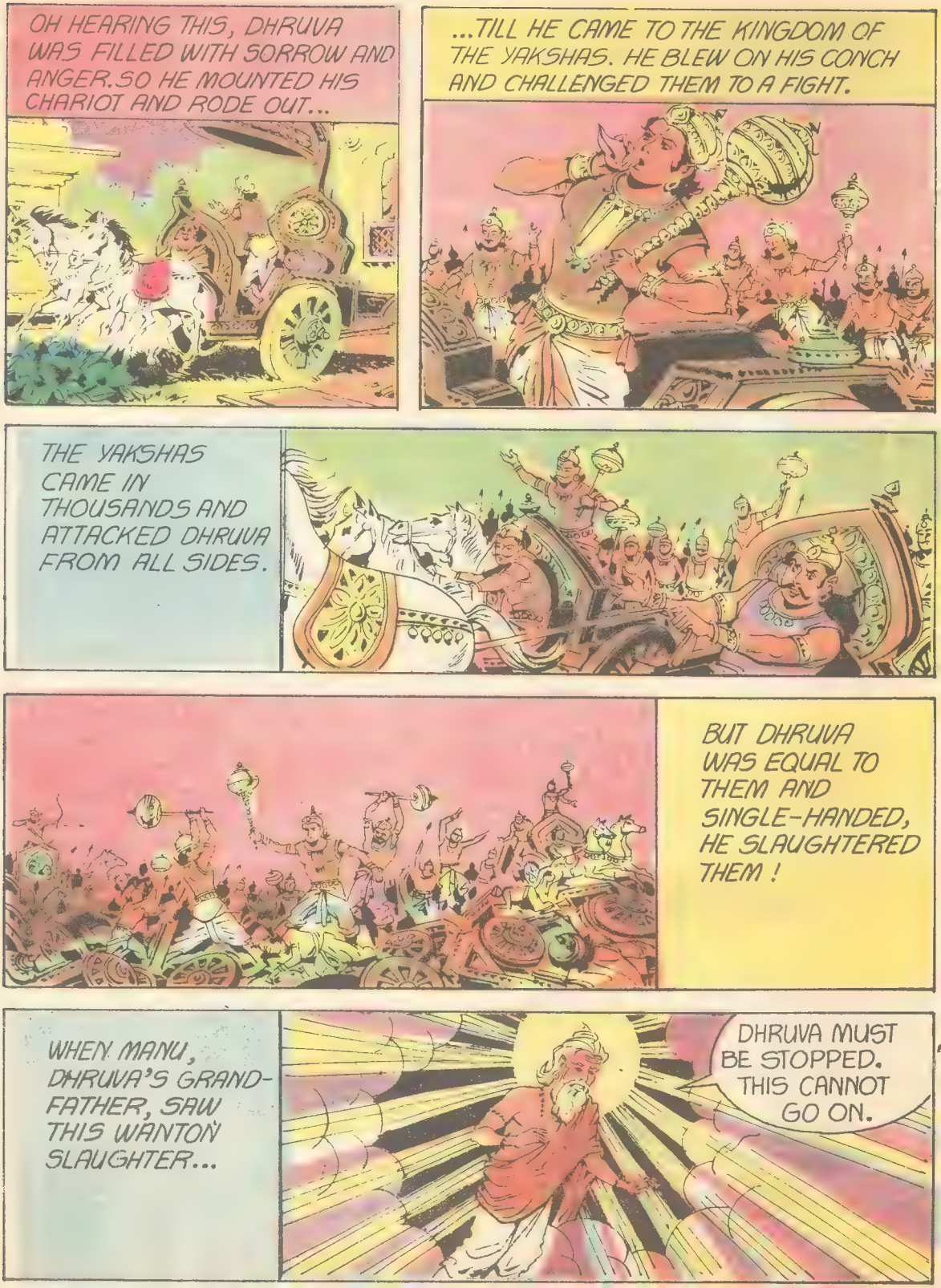


MOTHER, I BEAR YOU NO ILL-WILL.


THERE WAS GREAT REJOICING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN DANCED IN THE STREETS TO HAVE THEIR BELOVED PRINCE BACK.

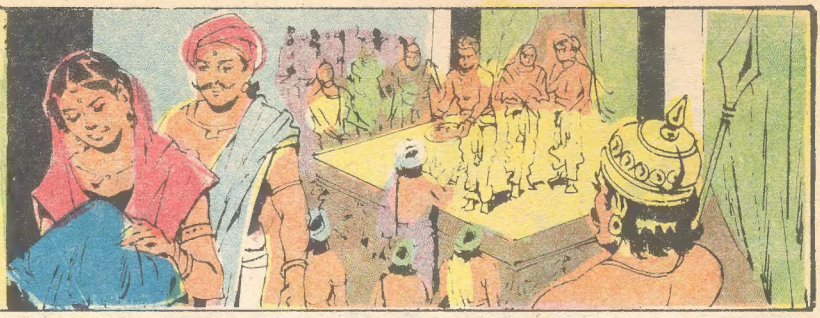

DHRUVA SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER AS KING.


ONE DAY—
O MERCIFUL KING! PRINCE UTTAMA HAS BEEN KILLED BY A YAKSHA.

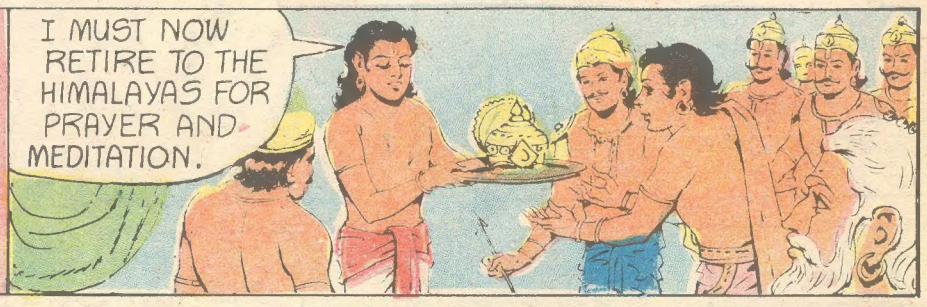

OH HEARING THIS, DHRUVA WAS FILLED WITH SORROW AND ANGER. SO HE MOUNTED HIS CHARIOT AND RODE OUT...
...TILL HE CAME TO THE KINGDOM OF THE YAKSHAS. HE BLEW ON HIS CONCH AND CHALLENGED THEM TO A FIGHT.
THE YAKSHAS CAME IN THOUSANDS AND ATTACKED DHRUVA FROM ALL SIDES.
BUT DHRUVA WAS EQUAL TO THEM AND SINGLE-HANDED, HE SLAUGHTERED THEM !
WHEN MANU, DHRUVA'S GRAND-FATHER, SAW THIS WANTON SLAUGHTER...
DHRUVA MUST BE STOPPED. THIS CANNOT GO ON.

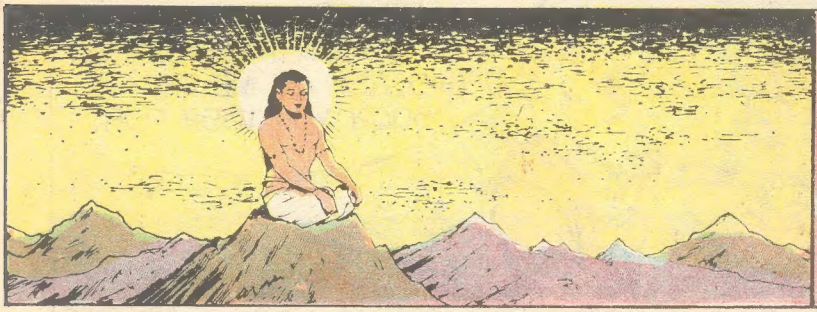
...HE APPEARED BEFORE HIM.
STOP THIS SENSELESS KILLING, O DHRUVA. YOU, WHO ARE A PARAMA HARI-BHAKTA, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF AND GET OVER THIS HATRED.
DHRUVA ACKNOWLEDGED HIS MISTAKE AND BOWED HIS HEAD.
KUBERA, THE LORD OF WEALTH, THEN CAME TO DHRUVA.
YOU ARE INDEED BLESSED, O DHRUVA. YOU HAVE EXERCISED GREAT CONTROL OVER YOUR ANGER. FOR THIS, ASK OF ME ANY BOON YOU WISH FOR.
I WISH FOR NOTHING, O KUBERA, SAVE CONSTANT DEVOTION TO THE FEET OF LORD VISHNU!
AFTER HAVING GRANTED DHRUVA'S HIS BOON, KUBERA DISAPPEARED.

DHRUVA RETURNED BACK TO HIS KINGDOM WHICH HE RULED WISELY AND COMPASSIONATELY.



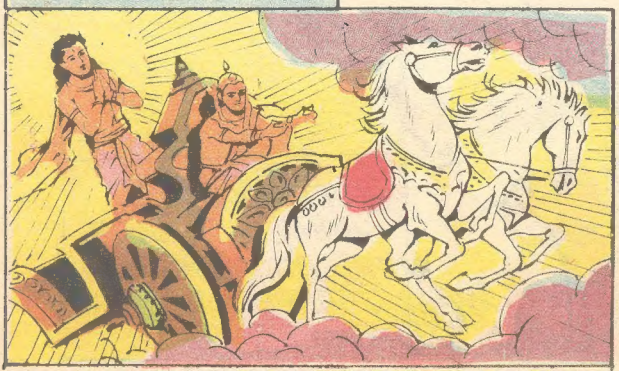
AT THE END OF HIS RULE, HE HANDED OVER THE KINGDOM TO HIS SON.





SO HE WENT TO THE BADRIKA ASHRAM AND MEDITATED TO REGAIN THE DIVINE EXPERIENCE OF HIS YOUTH.

THEN VISHNU SENT A BRILLIANT CHARIOT WHICH CONDUCTED HIM TO THE CELESTIAL SPHERE OF VISHNU-LOKA.



THERE, HE BECAME THE DHRUVA NAKSHATRA, OR THE POLE STAR WHICH, THROUGH EVERY AGE, HAS GUIDED MANKIND TO THIS VERY DAY!

FORM IV

(See Rule 8)

Statement about Ownership and othor particulars about ADARSH CHITRA KATHA.

1.	Place of Publication	New Delhi.
2.	Periodicity of its publication	One Comic per month
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	Whether citizen of India ?	Yes—Indian
	If foreigner. state the country of origin	Does not arise
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5.	Editor's Name	Mr. D. Kumar
	Whether citizen of India ?	Yes—Indian
	If foreigner, state the country of origin	Does not arise
	Address	16, Golf Links, New Delhi
6.	Names and addresses of Individuals who own the News-Paper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital	Mrs. Geeta Kumar, Proprietor, Argus Central Enterprises, 16, Golf Links, New Delhi

I, Mrs. Geeta Kumar, Proprietor, Argus Central Enterprises hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- (Geeta Kumar)

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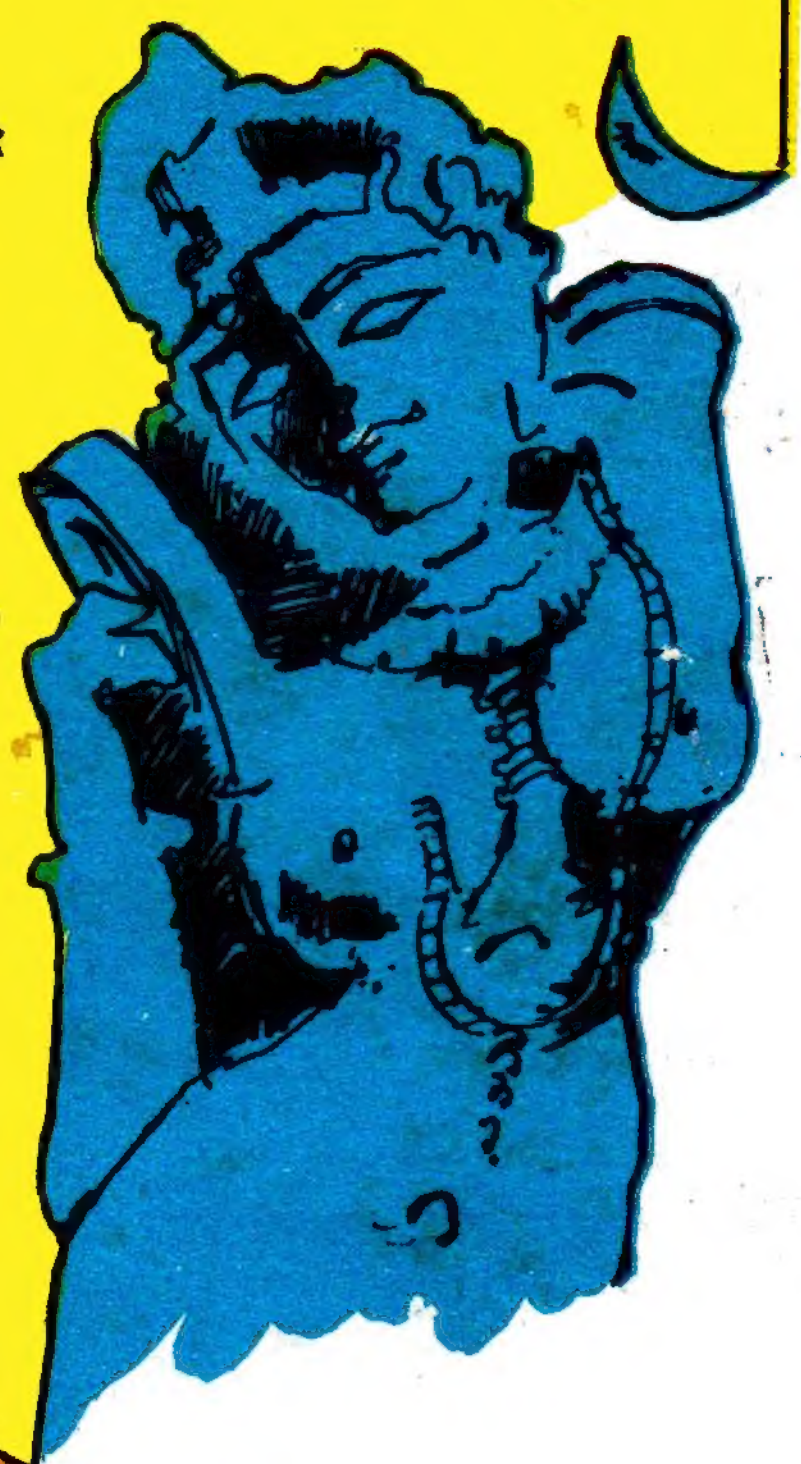

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